

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1 – 15. (canceled)

16. (new) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a packaging signal cassette flanked by a recombinase recognition sequence, wherein said packaging signal cassette comprises a modified adenovirus packaging signal having less than seven A elements, each A element having a consensus sequence of ATTTGN₈CG (SEQ ID NO:1), and where N₈ of each A element is replaced by the N₈ sequence of a different A element.

17. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal contains from two to six A elements.

18. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 17, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal contains from three to five A elements.

19. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *loxP*.

20. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *frt*.

21. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said wild-type packaging signal is human adenovirus serotype 5 packaging signal.

22. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein the modified packaging signal comprises at a maximum 23 bp of contiguous sequence homology relative to a wild-type packaging signal.

23. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal further comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said modified packaging signal comprises an A element 21 bp after AII.
25. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 16, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.
26. (new) The packaging signal cassette of claim 16 further comprising elements for use as an adenoviral helper virus vector.
27. (new) The helper virus vector of claim 26, wherein said helper virus vector does not contain an E1 gene.
28. (new) The helper virus vector of claim 27, wherein said helper virus vector comprises an E3 region with an insert of about 2.9 kb.
29. (new) The helper virus vector of claim 28, wherein said insert does not contain a promoter sequence.
30. (new) The helper virus vector of claim 29 wherein the E3 region has an insert of at least about 2.7 kb, provided that said insertion does not contain a promoter sequence.
31. (new) The helper virus vector of claim 28 -30, wherein said insert is a human intron sequence.